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Thursday **22 December 2011** | Issue 12

Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper



Special Holiday Edition Inside: 12-Page Activity Guide

We'll be back Jan 5 - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Minden welcomes sledders back

By Stephen Patrick

During the 1980s and 1990s, snowmobilers who flocked to Haliburton County saw Minden Village as a major destination for eating, shopping or just taking a break from the trails. Access from the Rail Trail, the Gelert Trail and from the northwest was convenient and efficient.

But over the years, some local trails fell into disrepair, access through the village was limited and getting across the Gull River was, to say the least, difficult and dangerous.

This week Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid revealed a major initiative to welcome sledders - and ATVers in the summer - back to the village proper.

"The genesis of this goes back to the previous term of council, in 2009, when we bought the snowmobile bridge as part of the economic stimulus package, along with the Riverwalk project. The bridge was fine, but it began to be known as 'the bridge to nowhere' because access to the downtown itself had become so limited," Reid told *The Highlander*.

"Some Haliburton County Snowmobile Association representatives came to council and said, you know, you really have to do something to get snowmobilers back to Minden, which used to be a huge hub for the sport all during the winter. And in fact they told us that some of the Minden access trails had become so bad that the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Associations downgraded the trails to 'Club' trails, which were known popularly as 'Crap' trails."

continued on page 2



Sir Sam's open for business

Haliburton is experiencing one of those crazy years: first day of winter and no snow. We're headed for a green Christmas, but Sir Sam's promise that they'll have runs open. Last weekend, they had two lifts running and many people came out to get some runs in. Sir Sam's advises that they will be open Dec 23 and 24, closed on Christmas day and then open for Christmas Break. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

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Minden Hills Roads Department gets to work on Mount Minden Trail. Photos by Walter Griffin



Easy access at last

Continued from page 1

Last February, Reeve Reid, Councilor Jean Neville and Recreation Director Rick Cox got together with representatives from the HCSA and the Haliburton County ATV Association to see what they could do to put snowmobiling back on the map for Minden, and at the same time to help market ATVing in the area.

"These reps were very helpful in getting Jean, Rick and I up to speed on what the problems were. They identified serious bridge problems near Pine Springs, another problem out by the Gelert Trail, which was very difficult to groom and therefore didn't get groomed. They also pointed out how difficult it had become to get to and through Minden Village itself, from one end to the other. So we worked on the problem all summer long, committed some funding, and now we're delighted to announce the changes that we think will make a huge difference."

For starters, the HCSA will have two groomers stationed in Minden, instead of just one. The Minden Hills roads department has been helping with brushing and trail preparation and, with the help of the two associations, the municipality has managed to develop a whole new trail through Minden itself, in two segments. It has also reopened a little trail formerly known as the Slaughterhouse Trail which will take snowmobilers down from the Rail Trail, through the Gelert Trail, to South Lake Road near Highway 35. And that's where the new trails get really exciting.

"Once you cross 35 from South Lake Road, on the left just past the Spa, there's an old trail head," said Reid. "We've managed to obtain permission from 13 property owners of

vacant land to allow access over Mount Minden and down the other side to Bobcaygeon Road. The trail will come out just about where the Sunny Variety used to be. And there, Dollo's IGA has given permission for their old vacant IGA site to be used as a snowmobile or ATV parking area, which people can use while they eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores.

"From there, the second segment goes through a vacant lot to Anson Street, takes a sharp right, then a left across the Gull River using the snowmobile bridge, and then, instead of having to go all the way down Orde Street and back Deep Bay Road, the owner of the River Cone has given permission to use her property as a shortcut. The trail then goes behind McMahon's Feed, up to McKay Street, then across Bobcaygeon Road, around the Cultural Centre and the Community Centre, and then finally joins up with the OFSA trail system once again."

The initiative includes the creation of five substantial, timber-framed signs with a large, clear map of Minden Village that will show the new trail system. The map will be surrounded by 16 advertising panels for local businesses. These signs will be at various strategic points on the OFSA trail system, including the Rail Trail and the Bobcaygeon Road.

"This initiative will cost a total of \$85,000," said Reid. "Minden Hills, the HCSA and the HATVA each put up \$25,000, and the Haliburton County Development Corporation added another \$10,000. We believe this is money well spent, and we're very happy with the cooperation and assistance of the two associations and the HCDC."

The signs, and the trails, should be ready shortly. And then? Just pray for snow.

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The Bird's instant family: left to right Jayla (2), Teressa, Erik (3), Scott and Haiden (4).

Birds come home to roost

By Stephen Patrick

For Teressa and Scott Bird, this will be a Christmas beyond their wildest dreams. Just a few short weeks ago Teressa, an elementary teacher at Archie Stouffer, and Scott, who works in the fish and wildlife program at the MNR, were going about their lives as usual. For some time they'd been working with various social agencies in an effort to adopt a child – and at times the process must have seemed endless.

And then the call came: would the Birds be interested in adopting more than one child? In fact, would they be interested in adopting not one, not two, but three healthy, well-adjusted siblings?

After some serious thought and consultation with the social workers, and their own families, Teressa and Scott gave the idea a resounding “YES!”

And so within days, Haiden (4), Erik (3) and Jayla (2) became the latest members of the Bird/Johnston families. A few weeks later, Teressa's brother Darren Johnston and his wife Teresa, along with Scott's sister Kellie Churko and husband Steve, held a joyous celebration for the new family at the Johnston home on Barry's Line, which was happily attended by dozens of friends and relatives. Particularly proud were the new arrivals' grandparents, Bob Bird, and Bruce and Shirley Johnston.

Steinkamp: I'll be back

By Stephen Patrick

Our federal government wants to ensure that no one takes their Canadian citizenship oath while covering their face.

We have another suggestion.

For anyone immigrating to small town Canada, Stephen Leacock's Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town should be required reading, head covered or not.

This fall the Maarten Steinkamp rumours have swirled around Haliburton Village like a January snow squall. The latest, trumpeted as absolute fact by many reliable observers, was that, “he's been deported, and that's a fact!”

The truth appears to be far less exciting. Steinkamp is the co-owner of McKecks and Aniz in Haliburton, and has extensive business interests in Europe.

He recently told The Highlander, “We are still proud co-owners of McKeck's and Aniz and happy to be involved.

“We are looking to acquire a design business (predominately kitchen/bathrooms) in Barrie where [my spouse] Laura's business has been thriving. In the past months I have been looking after our other businesses in Europe like Held Vodka and CNR Entertainment.”

Steinkamp had planned to return to Canada after Christmas (he's received his Permanent Residency status here), but the TV music show he co-hosted last spring in Germany was a big success, and he's been contracted to a new edition on RTL, Germany's biggest commercial TV station.

He's sad about the rumours, but “happy that I am not forgotten!”

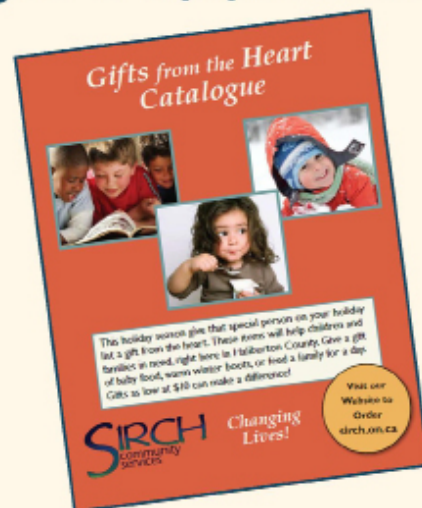
The last shooting day for the TV show is in early April, and Steinkamp expects to return to Canada, “more or less full time,” shortly after that.



A banner day in Minden

Emma Cox, left, and Ariel Weiss proudly display their banners, named among the top three student entries in this past year's Minden Hills Festival of Banners. The prizes were awarded December 20. The banners were among 27 student entries that hung in the downtown area of Minden throughout the summer. The third banner winner was Shae McNaull, who was in grade eight and is now a student at HHSS. Photo by Jack Brezina.

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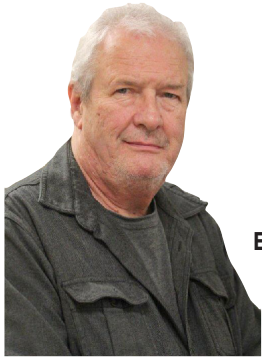
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Merry Christmas from The Highlander

Editorial opinion



Holiday season reflections

By Stephen Patrick

The Highlander began its life just 12 weeks ago, kicking and screaming its way into the ever-changing mosaic of Haliburton County. As our readers will recall, our gestation period was all of five days, surely some kind of record in the annals of local journalism. Well, time flies when you're having fun, as they say.

During those 12 short, sweet weeks it's been our pleasure and privilege to bring our readers diverse and unique perspectives on life here in Haliburton County. Victoria Ward, Will Jones, Terrance Gavan, myself and Bram Lebo among others all try, on a weekly basis, to understand, or parse, our world here and our relationship to that wider universe in the big burgs and beyond.

In this holiday season edition, Victoria and Will's take on current lights and family Christmas traditions highlight to me the enduring pull of the past and the urgent demands of the new, of the young (Lights! Lights!). Victoria's evocation of her family's wildly contradictory, but somehow strangely logical blend of Victorian England and hippy 1960s North America in particular illustrate just how pulled and pushed are those of us, at this time of year, who were brought up so firmly in the Christian tradition.

My own childhood memories of Christmas are inextricably woven into the fabric of church life; of the Anglican midnight mass, at which I sang as part of the choir; of the glorious Christmas day services; of the good-natured torture of not being able to open all the presents before church on the day (just one, each — just one — my parents would instruct my brother and myself, and somehow that seemed enough).

In our family, Christmas was further complicated by the fact that my brother's and my birthdays fell on either side of the 25th, but we never, in my recollection, felt cheated. My day was mine, my brother's his. (Of course, my life is now further complicated by my son's and my spouse's birthdays falling in the same six-day period — never a dull moment in this household from the 22nd to the 28th.)

But these warm and important memories are also inevitably coloured for many of us by the secular nature of our modern existence. Put bluntly, the church is not a factor in any of my or my spouse's immediate families' lives. The memories may be warm, and respect for the tradition may be genuine, but there is undeniably both liberation and loss here, which further complicates for many the contradictions and stresses of the Christmas season.

Also, much is made these days of the necessity to respect our society's increasing diversity, to talk about the 'Holiday Season' rather than Christmas, in order to include those of other traditions and faiths. This nod to political correctness doesn't bother me; I see no conflict in language that's meant simply to be inclusive, not exclusionary. But it also adds to the complexity and richness of the season, which I can understand can be confusing to some.

As our writers attest, Haliburton County is alive with lights and good cheer. The fundraising efforts on behalf of the less-fortunate are always impressive, it seems, no matter how badly our economy might be performing.

And for that, we can all give thanks — as we wish all our writers, readers and our community a happy, healthy and meaningful Holiday Season.



From gloom to glory: let it snow

By Bram Lebo

This week on my radio show with Brigitte Gall (Mondays at 6pm on Canoe FM), we played a duet of *Let it Snow*, recorded recently by local artists Carl Dixon and Jerelyn Craden. Brigitte and I stared at each other in disbelief — we know Carl and Jerelyn are good, but this recording was more than that. It was

hands-down, top-of-the-charts world class and instantly rocketed to our list of favourite Christmas music; we wanted to play it over again.

Such is the talent and energy living among us, twinkling like Christmas lights bashfully beckoning the sun back from its winter sleep. And like many talented people, the county itself seems waiting somewhat impatiently to be discovered by the world; if only they knew how wonderful we are.

But rather than basking in the thrill of fame, it can feel as if the world has forgotten about Haliburton County this time of year. Indeed, many fear that without snow, the cottagers, skiers and snowmobilers will find somewhere else to go over the holidays, adding yet another lump of coal to our stocking of economic hardships.

While in most places snow covers the landscape, here it does the opposite, bringing the world into sharp, exhilarating relief. Young and old emerge from the winter darkness to tread, trudge, swoosh and sweep. Our restaurants and inns revive from the autumnal gloom and merchants — some at least — enjoy a bit of a snowball effect. With snow, as we saw earlier this month, our region transforms from gloom to glory; for a few days it seemed we all had a winter spring in our step.

So, indeed — let it snow. Let the winter trails spread before us, the trees and rooftops dress themselves in a cozy covering of frigid fluff for the world outside to discover, for us to revel and draw joy. Let the sun shine its white reflection on our pale faces and let winter lift us all with its stunning, delightful song.

On Thanks

We could not let the year end without a note of thanks to those who have made *The Highlander* possible: our hard-working and dedicated (both understated) team of Stephen, Walt, Heather, Louise, and Terry; our contributing writers, Will, Victoria, Penny and Jerry; and Jack for his unwavering support and advice. Thanks also to HCDC and the Incubator program, to our advertisers for their support which we work to earn every day, and to our readers who with their feedback and loyalty are ensuring we will reach our vision: to be a valued part of the community dialogue, a source of reflection and encouragement to be the best Haliburton County can be.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Letters to the Editor

Re: "Grammar is highly contentious"

Dear Editor:

Rob Iveson reflects many of my grammar concerns. Not only is the mis-use of 'less' and 'fewer' annoyingly common, but so is the incorrect usage of 'myself' where 'me' is correct.

A friend of mine, a linguistics prof at U of T, shrugged when I queried him about usage irritations. "Language changes", he'd say.

One ray of hope though. Our welcome immigrants, when they have the benefit of English language instruction, inevitably use correct grammar, often putting native speakers to shame.

Unfortunately, the correct use of 'less' and 'fewer', as well as that of 'me' and 'myself', will ultimately disappear from the language, in the same way as the distinction between 'shall' and 'will' already has in everyday speech.

Margery Cartwright
Haliburton

TheHighlander

Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited
750 Mountain Street
Box 1024, Haliburton Ontario K0M 1S0

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Publisher Bram Lebo x 710
Editor Stephen Patrick x 702
Advisor to the Publisher Jack Brezina
Sales Manager Walt Griffin x 705
Production Manager Heather Kennedy x 703
Reporter/Photographer Terrance Gavan x 704
Contributing Writers Will Jones, Jerry Grozelle
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Letters to the Editor

HHHSF not an arm of government

Dear Editor:

We wish to take this opportunity to clarify some points from [the Dec 1] editorial regarding fundraising undertaken by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) for the Haliburton and Minden hospitals and health care facilities.

We also wish to take this opportunity to correct inaccuracies in your paper’s reporting of required funding for capital projects and equipment for the hospitals and health care facilities with the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation (HHHSC).

We are pleased to be advised by the Central East LHIN Board of Directors of the approval for the Palliative Care Project. The next step will be to obtain Ministry of Health approval. The proposal includes operating funds of approximately \$150,000 for dedicated nursing staff to provide the necessary high level of care. The capital dollars will be approximately \$500,000 and will necessitate a fundraising campaign.

Since 1997, HHHSF has raised \$8.7 million through the generosity of the community and beyond. Efficient and effective fundraising methods and programs have ensured

that 74 percent of the funds raised benefit the hospitals and health care facilities for capital projects, technology and priority equipment. HHHSF is a registered Canadian charity, not an arm of the government, which your editorial may have led readers to believe, and abides by strict reporting requirements. HHHSF is governed by dedicated community volunteers who realize the importance of good health care facilities for the community.

The support from various levels of government starting with the initial capital build projects and the increased operating funds; previous funding for beds, alarm systems, palliative care and infrastructure improvements and the recently announced funding for the telemedicine coordinator and quality patient care enhancements has been outstanding.

We are indeed fortunate to have the support and trust of the community to add value to the health care system in addition to the substantial government funding for both capital acquisitions and operations.

Yours Truly,
Peter E. Oyler, HHHSF Chairman
H. Dale Robinson, HHHSC Chairman

“Action now for the poor, not for the rich.”

Dear Editor:

MPP Laurie Scott is to be commended for thinking about the economic hardship people are enduring when Moose FM host Rick Lowes reminded her that 42 percent of Haliburton County’s children live at or below the poverty line.

Her proposal to remedy the situation is to call on Premier McGuinty to immediately cancel the HST on home heating oil and electricity. How much will this proposal benefit those extended families crowding in one-bedroom apartments or tiny cottages in Haliburton County? How much will this proposal benefit the lakefront villa owners with their energy-sucking 60-inch televisions? Oh yes, let’s carpet-bomb the populace and some money will trickle down to the poor.

Laurie, if you are serious about helping the poor, let’s talk about raising the miserly welfare rates in Ontario. Let’s talk about changing the rules on Employment Insurance Benefits so that Ontarians are not discriminated against in eligibility compared to other regions.

We need action now for the poor, not for the rich.

Larry Bukta
Minden

“Council doesn’t know what they are doing”

Dear Editor:

So I read your December 15 issue and found myself totally baffled by it.

On the front page you have an article regarding how so many of us are struggling to make ends meet, forget keeping them tied. I have an excellent job and I struggle so I can only imagine what others in the community are dealing with.

So I continued reading the next page and come across an article about investing in pay and display! You have got to be kidding, right? Underground hydro was completely unnecessary, as were the new lamp posts along York Street, and now we are expected to pay for parking? Reeve Fearrey does realize that we are living in cottage country where being rustic is the norm, right? The meters that are currently in place have never been that big of an issue in the past, so why now?

I moved here because of the rustic old way of living, and

now everything is booming and following suit. We teach our children to not conform, so why, as a VILLAGE, are we conforming? Was there ever a problem with our hydro being on hydro poles? Or with our lamp-posts being a little older than most?

All I can conclude from reading this issue is that council doesn’t know what they are doing or why they are doing it. If they want to change something then maybe they can turn their attention to how they can actually help the residents of this village with large expenses such as the price of oil. We have oil fields in Alberta so why are we exporting that and importing from somewhere else? This all seems unnecessary.

If they (Fearrey and MPP Laurie Scott) want to help the community, why don’t they listen to the response when they ask “how can we help you?”

Leslie Akey, Haliburton

Re: Terry Gavan’s column on Bettman

Dear Editor:

I am disappointed, Terry [Terrance Gavan, our Sports columnist] missed the point altogether. His usual high level of intelligence has failed him. So what is wrong with a sport being dangerous, what is wrong with highly paid “athletes” pounding each other to a pulp? People love it and that is important.

Remember what the Roman Emperors said, “give them bread and games”. So we got food banks and hockey. The gladiators had a good life, free training, great food, wine and women, while it lasted. The better ones lasted for a long time. So nothing has changed.

Today’s civilized “West” is just a myth.

Armin Weber
Thornhill

The Outsider — Who turned the lights on?

By Will Jones

It started out as a way of trying to distract little Z while in the car; another attempt to put off the moment when those dreaded words are uttered. Not “Are we there yet?” but, “want my silly songs on, want my silly songs on...”

Little Z’s ‘silly songs’ (his term, our groan and the actual name on the CD cover) are a collection of nonsensical nursery rhymes that he insists we play at high volume on every car journey, whether a quick trip to the village or a three-hour jaunt to the city. And by play I mean repeat over and over, to the point where I can imagine them being used as an interrogation technique by the FBI.

But that’s getting a little off track. The distraction technique is a festive ruse and it’s working well. “Look out for the lights. Can you see any pretty lights?” chant the wife and I as Little Z battles against his car seat restraints, trying to spot sparkling outdoor Christmas decorations. And when he spots them, all hell breaks loose: “LIGHTS! LIGHTS! LIGHTS!” is the shout (I have to admit to joining in at times) as we pass another brightly-bejewelled home.

And what lights they are! You folk certainly know

how to waste electricity (sorry, did I say that out loud?). You certainly know how to put on a Christmas light display. There are little cottages bedecked in twinkling crystalline stars, glimmering trees in front gardens, multicoloured garlands hanging from many a porch. And these are just the pleasantly restrained, “hey, shall we decorate the veranda” style of external home adornment.

Little Z is more a fan of the displays that include a giant figure of some sort: an eight-foot tall Santa Claus, a giant snowman, or those families of twinkling deer that prance statically in the snow. One such magnificent festive garden arrangement is a masterpiece that includes a snowman, Santa and Mrs Santa, at the Minden end of County Road 21. On seeing it I blurted out, “Where do these folks buy this stuff?” only to be confronted minutes later by the aforementioned eight-foot tall inflatable Santa as I walked into Home Hardware.

My previous city life has left me unprepared for the size and extravagance of your outdoor Christmas decoration, at least on the domestic scale. Yes, London had its parade. The illumination of the Oxford Street lights was always an event. But major displays in private gardens are something I’m not used to.

Until very recently, I would have staked camp firmly

in favour of the tastefully minimal displays, the ones in which some grotesque cartoon festive figure doesn’t dwarf me as it bucks and sways in the chill wind (that’s just not what you want if you’re staking camp anywhere). I’m getting better with these all-out assaults on Christmas cheer, though, and it’s thanks to Little Z’s vigilance.

You see, we were driving down County Road 1 the other evening, Little Z in light spotting mode, me not paying too much attention (just thankful to be listening to CBC Radio 2, rather than another rendition of Jump Jump Johnny Giraffe!) when the call went up, “LIGHTS! LIGHTS! Daddy, LIGHTS!” The car skidded to a halt, slowly, on the not-so-snowy verge. And there it was, a giant illuminated snow globe, revolving resplendently in the middle of someone’s front lawn. I was amazed, awed even.

But don’t take my word for it. Go see it, just south of the turn for Ingoldsby. Go see it and tell me you don’t joyously shout “LIGHTS! LIGHTS! LIGHTS!”



Around the county

Merrily, shoppingly, locally – the annual trek to the Pete

By Terrance Gavan – Special Comment

Apropos of our Shop Local campaign, I come to you with this confession: I did maneuver down the Buckhorn Road to the Pete for my one and only paean to “outside shopping” this Christmas time.

Let me tell you about shopping in Peterborough. It’s exciting. We got there and the Lansdowne Mall was in darkness. A transformer — or something electrical — blew up, leaving shopping-central darker than pitch.

Went to the curling store instead, and they don’t carry Asham shoes. Not a sin, but it was the only reason I went there.

Back to the mall. Jingle Bells Molly, we’re back on the trolley: the lights are on.

Lansdowne Mall is always an adventure. Fourteen years of living in the boondocks – Invermere, BC, and now Haliburton – and I am saddled with lingering agoraphobia. Yes, I am afraid of Greek shopping malls.

I stuck it out because Jackie was finishing her shopping. I have done 90 percent of my own, locally.

I popped into the men’s and baby-change washroom at the mall. I usually just brush by the change station, but a sign stopped me in my tracks. There on the table, a carefully placed warning: Please do not leave your child unattended. Bright lights, big city.

At one point that day I am at the Mark’s Work Warehouse counter to pay for a pair of pants – yes, all my jeans come from V&S Stedmans, but these pants were lovely and 50 per

cent off. And not a Christmas present.

I get to the counter and my frenzied clerk scans them at \$4.95. The price tag clearly says \$44.95. My clerk says, “Well that’s odd, but we have to go with the scan. Your card, sir?”

Gobsmacked, I withdraw my card. “You might want to check that,” I said.

The clerk says, “Well, the scan said \$4.95. That’s quite a deal. Your card, sir?”

“Scan it again,” I said. He does, and it comes back at \$44.95.

He thanks me for my honesty, and then he says something that makes my day.

“So sorry about the delay,” says my clerk, who was probably double shifting. “Now, those khakis are \$40 more, do you still want them?”

Now, I was going to state the obvious and say: “Pal. Look at me, pal. I brought these khakis to the counter with every intention of paying the tagged price of \$44.95. The \$4.95 detour? It’s moot. A red herring in the overall transaction. It’s a faulty scanner. We don’t have a problem.”

Instead I just said: “I’ll take ’em anyway. Hey, it’s Christmas, keep the \$40 and donate it to Mark’s favourite charity.”

He didn’t get the joke. He just nodded, thanked me for being honest, and wished me Merry Christmas. “Next!” he bellowed.

On our way out of the mall, I passed for the fifth time a sales clerk flying one of those ubiquitous remote controlled helicopters. Annoying to most people, but I dig those toys. So I watch.

The clerk is distracted for just a moment, and the tiny

hummingbird comes lower than normal and appears for a fleeting moment in the sight line of a senior shopper making good time using a polished cane.

The clerk was just about to bring the wayward bird back when “sssst!” This darling elderly lady whipped her cane from her side as quick as Jesse James, and “bawap”. Quick as spit. Like a frog’s tongue snatching a grasshopper, the cane lashed out. The helicopter went down like a sack of mud.

“Mayday, mayday, mayday, bird down, bird down! On the mall floor. Mayday!”

The sales associate, who was about 17, just stared at his keyboard and then at the battered whirly bird, now lying forlorn and dented at his feet.

The manager came out and they apologized profusely to the woman.

She smiled gently.

“I’m sorry I killed your helicopter,” she smiled. “But it startled me.”

Then she said the strangest thing.

“Can I buy one of those for my grandson?”

I never picked up a Christmas present, but Jackie finished her shopping and I chuckled all the way down the Buckhorn Road.

I finished my Christmas shopping at six shops around town this week.

I bought one of those whirly birds at The Source right here in town.

Fear not, seniors. I will not be flying it near elderly ladies.

Good catch by alert Haliburton Lake residents

OPP nab three suspects in break-and-enters

By Terrance Gavan – with files from the OPP

The OPP are crediting some alert citizens near Haliburton Lake for the quick apprehension of three break-and-enter suspects.

On Dec 11, at 4:40 pm, officers of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment responded to a call from a citizen on Haliburton Lake Road who spotted a man attempting to kick in the front door of a neighbouring residence.

The quick thinking and prompt report allowed the officers to start an immediate investigation, which ended in the arrest of three males for a number of break-and-enters and attempted break-ins in the Haliburton Lake Road area.

Property taken in the heists was also recovered, said OPP spokesperson Cst. Sandy Adams.

Ryan Moore, 20, of Ajax, is charged with three counts of break-and-enter, two counts of break-and-enter with intent and possession of property obtained by crime.

The accused will appear in court in Minden on Feb 1 to deal with the charges.

Christopher Currin, also 20, and also of Ajax, is charged with three counts of break-and-enter, two counts of break-and-enter with intent to commit an indictable offence and possession. Currin will appear in Minden Court with Moore, on Feb 1.

Police have also charged a 17-year-old Haliburton male. The youth is charged with twin counts of break-and-enter, three counts of break-and-enter with intent and possession of criminally obtained property. He is also being charged with a breach of recognizance.

The youth cannot be named and is currently remanded in custody.

The Highlands detachment thanked the alert citizens who reported the burglaries.

“The OPP remind citizens to contact the police immediately, by dialing 911 or calling 1-888-310-1122, if they see any suspicious activity in their area,” said Cst. Adams.



Patient News raises cash and gifts for needy families

Andrea Black and Patti Lou Robinson from Patient News Publishing presented SIRCH’s Diane Johnson with multiple gifts, cash and turkey bucks for SIRCH’s families this Christmas season. Almost 20 PNP employees donated to the cause. Photo submitted.

Highlander arts

A very special night with Dixon and friends



By Terrance Gavan

Carl Dixon wanted to hold the special debut of his Christmas album – *Snow* – at the Northern Lights Pavilion.

“But then I got to thinking,” said Dixon from a very crowded stage last Thursday evening at McKecks in Haliburton. “We can’t drink beer at the Northern Lights.”

That brought the de rigueur round of applause and raucous cheers from the packed house of jolly imbibers – with noted exceptions from the designated driver and tea-tototal set.

The night exuded cheer and bonhomie.

It is the first Christmas album that Haliburton musician Dixon – former front man of The Guess Who, Coney Hatch and April Wine – has ever done.

He told the crowd that night that he had a ton of fun doing the album.

And everyone in the room knew that to be self-evident from the moment Dixon took the stage.

With the exception of one or two solos, the impeccably adept producer, singer and guitar player was assisted throughout the three hour show with a broad and vibrant range of local

musicians, some of whom provide backup on the actual album.

Local songstress Jerelyn Craden, McKecks manager Karen Frybort, Susan MacDonald, Ian Pay, trumpet player Andy Salvatori, drummer Ryan Dawson and cellist Bethany Houghton – there were others and we apologize for not being able to name all of you – appeared on stage during the course of the evening.

And at the end of the night of sing-alongs and Christmas caroling, the whole troupe was able to jam themselves onto that tiny stage for the last tunes of the evening.

It kinda’ looked like an homage to the closing scenes of *The Last Waltz*, but without the florid stumbling and mumbling of a convivial Irish tipsy-gypsy – yes Van the Man Unusual.

Visit www.haliburtonhighlander.ca for some great pics of the evening along with a few memorable snippets from a very solid and enjoyable evening of local music.

The Carl Dixon CD is for sale around town or from his website – carldixon.com.

Dixon also announced that it’s available on iTunes, beginning this week.



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Highlander arts

State of the Arts By Victoria Ward



Nostalgia in red and green

In 1841, Prince Albert brought a new tradition into his and Queen Victoria's home: the Christmas tree. Though sparsely adorned at first, the tree soon became festooned with as many ornaments as one could imagine, setting off

a yearly tradition of 'decorating fetishness'.

Much earlier, in Ancient Rome, the holly plant was used to fend off evil during the Solstice-inspired Saturnalia. It also came to symbolize nature's addition to the Yuletide festivities in the Victorian era. While the tree and holly still prevail today, the evocation of Saturnalia might be closer to those who spend the holidays soaked in cookies and booze, only to wake up in the New Year bilious and sketchy on the details.

I was a child in the late 20th century, and in my case that meant that my family's culture was one of the high and low art worlds at the same time. We honoured our Victorian ways every year with a tree and homemade decorations, eating goose, mincemeat pies and opening our presents Christmas morning. Christmas Eve in my house was reserved for mass, which I loved. It was beautiful. We even listened to the Queen's yearly address on the radio or watched it on TV. Seriously, I watched the Queen. My mother, who was bizarrely both a Marxist and Monarchist, insisted.

It was the turbulent 60s, however, and my mother had to have giant, crazy op-art decorations and as much plastic holly, mistletoe and other fake plants as she could get her hands on. The inside of our house came to resemble the set of a Laugh-In Christmas Special. My father hooked up a lighting design every year that you could see from space. Beatles music was as prominent as Handel's Messiah.

A slow evolution took place, in which we would often end up in front of the TV on Christmas Eve, instead of across town dutifully standing and kneeling all evening at our church. Our new 'mass' became Alistair Sim's magnificent 1951 film version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. To this day I still watch it on an ancient VHS tape that my extraordinary but dearly departed mother recorded.

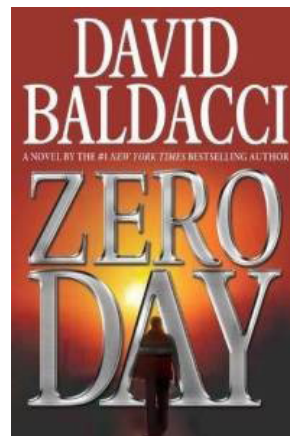
We did try to keep the Victorian in our tradition as best we could. Yes, the decorations were plastic but they looked 19th century. Perhaps because of this I've always seen Christmas as high camp in some ways. We seem to feel the need to at least once a year turn our house into a fake world that is gaudy, but still yearning to be tasteful.

And this is an enduring aspect of Christmas: the aesthetics. People love their decorations, music, movies, food and presents; the world they create around them signaling that this is a special time, an unusual time and a celebratory time. The key is to make your world inspirational, not aspirational.

A recent article in the New Yorker on the Swedish giant IKEA described how IKEA's attention to detail in decorating their showcase rooms and their catalogues is the secret to their world-wide domination in the furnishings market. People 'play house' when they go to IKEA; we love to try new nests out because we love to make nests. IKEA is purposely aspirational, of course. It's one of the biggest companies in the world.

Most people's purpose is far more modest. At Christmas we just want to get creative and redecorate our homes with seasonal things because it makes us feel new. We travel to another time with our decorations — are we in a Dickens novel or the Tzar's court? Or is your world entirely modern?

Suddenly, at Christmas, we care that the silver napkins match the gold tablecloth and that our hand towels in the washroom are red and green. It isn't just presents we wrap up; we also wrap up ourselves in love, nostalgia, beauty and companionship, if we're lucky. Albert was giving Victoria a symbol of his childhood and of his hopes and dreams; something all of us are wont to do at this time of year.



Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are the top five fiction and non-fiction titles as requested at the Haliburton County Public Library for the week of December 19 - 25.

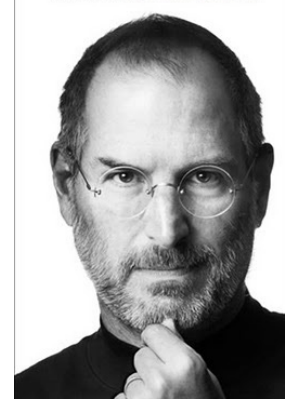
HCPL's TOP 5 FICTION

1. *Zero Day* by David Baldacci
2. *1225 Christmas Tree Lane* by Debbie Macomber
3. *The Drop* by Michael Connelly
4. *Kill Alex Cross* by James Patterson
5. *Before the Poison* by Peter Robinson

HCPL's TOP 5 NON-FICTION

1. *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
2. *From This Moment On* by Shania Twain
3. *The Wealthy Barber Returns* by David Chilton
4. *Wheat Belly* by William Davis
5. *The 17 Day Diet* by Mike Moreno

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson



HCPL's fiction list is once again topped by David Baldacci's *Zero Day*. It seems as though Baldacci always has a popular book out. Perhaps this is because *Zero Day* is his third novel in 2011 alone. He is constantly rolling out his books — and his devotees can't seem to get enough. Since he published his first novel, *Absolute Power*, in 1996, he has gone on to produce 22 more.

It is hard to believe that there are plenty of authors who are significantly more prolific than Baldacci. For example, Danielle Steel has written over 100 books, as has Nora Roberts and Louis L'Amour. Dean Koontz has written over 90, Agatha Christie over 80 and Stephen King over 70. With authors that churn out books this frequently, it's a wonder there are still original stories to come by.

LIBRARY EVENTS

For the month of December, it's Food 4 Fines at the library! If you have any overdue library items, bring in non-perishable food and we'll waive your outstanding fines. Our local Food Bank will benefit this holiday season — and so will you!

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Senior highlanders

Aging Well A pain in the you-know-what

Dear Penny,

I have sciatica from time to time. I had it last winter for a few weeks. I had it last month, and now it's started up again. I'm wondering if there's anything I can do to shorten the recovery time. I'm also wondering if there's anything I can do so it doesn't happen as often.

A Pain in the you-know-what

Dear Pain,

Sciatica is pain that originates in the lower back and may be felt in the buttocks and down the back of the leg along the distribution of the sciatic nerve. It can range from mild discomfort to a nagging or sharp pain. It is not uncommon and is never pleasant.

Interestingly, while some people can remember a certain movement they did that preceded their sciatica, many cannot. Their sciatica just seems to flare up with no good reason they can point to. Either way, there are several things you can do.

Many people find that sitting on hard chairs exacerbates their sciatica. Look at your kitchen chairs in particular, because they are usually hard and you sit on them several times a day. A cushioned seat may bring you some

comfort and may prevent recurrence.

Over-the-counter anti-inflammatory drugs such as Aleve can be also very helpful. Use the ones your doctor suggests.

A heating pad is also worth trying. Wrap the pad in a towel so there is no chance of burning yourself, and apply the heat for at least an hour or more. There are also heat packs you can buy at the pharmacy and apply directly against the skin of your lower back. You can wear them under your clothes and they stay warm for hours. According to many sciatica sufferers, they help greatly.

Some people swear by massage. They find a lower back massage very soothing and report it seems to reduce their sciatica symptoms. If you can get a doctor's referral for physiotherapy, your therapist is best suited to decide on the type of massage and other treatments that may help.

A physiotherapist can also give you a good back routine to help diminish the pain of a flare-up and, equally important, prevent frequent recurrence. Back exercises strengthen the muscles in your back, but they must be done properly. One of the standard low back exercises is the pelvic tilt, an exercise I described last week. I'll repeat it for you here.

Pelvic tilt: Lying flat on your back with your knees

bent, place one hand behind you under the small of your back. Press down towards that hand, tightening your stomach muscles as you do. Hold for a count of five. Relax for five. Repeat 10 times.

There are a number of other good exercises your therapist can teach you to do. In fact, a physiotherapist may have several suggestions I haven't thought of and is certainly your best resource for this complaint.

I don't usually send people to the Internet to look up this sort of thing because it can be so hard to determine which sites are reliable and which are not. But as it happens, Dr. Zorba of National Public Radio in the US put some good back exercises for sciatica on his site this week. Check it out at <http://wpr.org/zorba>.

Readers, if you have any other questions — about your mobility, your comfort or just about getting through your day more safely and easily, I want to hear them. For real-life answers you can use, write to Penny at penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca.



By Penny Brown

Police ask for help in suspected hit and run

Officers of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police are seeking public assistance after finding an injured man in the parking lot of the Northwood Inn early Sunday morning.

Police responded to a call at 2 am. When they arrived at the Northwood they found Alex Trueman, 20, lying in the parking lot.

Sources now say that Trueman, a Haliburton resident, was struck on Hwy 118 and crawled back to the parking lot.

Trueman was transported to Haliburton Hospital, and later transferred to St Michael's Hospital in Toronto. His injuries are not life threatening, and he will probably be released from hospital in time for Christmas.

Cst. Sandy Adams said in a release that the investigation is ongoing.

The OPP in Haliburton are actively seeking community help in the investigation.

If you have information, contact them at 888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477.

You can also send an electronic tip to Crime Stoppers via crimestoppers.ca.

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Highlander insider

Message from the web guy 10,000 hits and rising with a bullet

By Terrance Gavan

We hit a milestone last Friday here at *The Highlander*: our website logged 10,000 hits.

Not an overwhelming total if you're comparing us to *The Globe and Mail*, but for a small-town weekly, just 12 editions into our existence, it's quite a milestone.

We — a qualified royal on the 'we' — put the website up just about two weeks into this marvellous adventure. I disregarded strict orders from our publisher and decided to work some nights to get the prototype up and running in a developer's folder. (We had originally decided to have a website up by December or early January.)

A week after that, at around issue three, I started populating the site with stories gleaned from our first three editions. I then managed to convince Bram to give me the codes to www.haliburtonhighlander.ca and, unbeknownst to him or Stephen, I slapped it up to the web, live. And I kept that a secret for about a week, while I hurriedly distributed it to my cadre of friends in the news biz and some website developers — and hackers — that I know.

Four days later, I received some 'good to go' replies from most of them and I got some wonderful props from my pal, John Kendle, the Managing Editor of the *Free Press Weeklies* in Winnipeg. Only then did I come clean with my conspiracy; kudos in hand, I asked again if we could put the site live.

Bram said, "Let me go home and think on it," most certainly a kiss of death to my project. But no, I got a thumbs up and an obsessively conclusive list of corrections and improvements to be made; we were live and I had just complicated my life — in a good way, because I love this part of our enterprise.

We are constantly looking to improve our site, hand-in-hand with our paper. I think we're managing both with baby steps and constant tweaks and improvements.

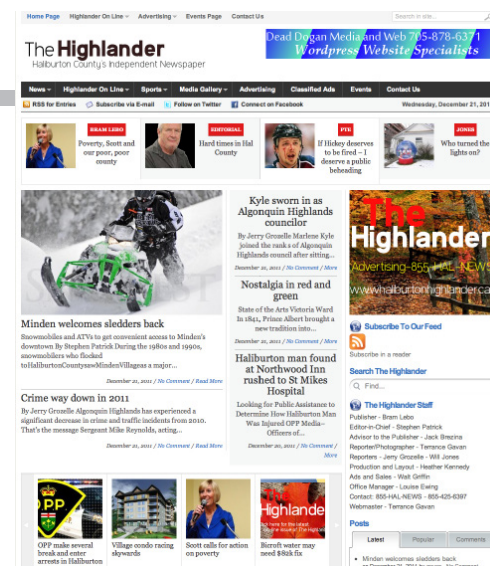
So, 10,000 hits is pretty darn good. I have an experimental ad for Dead Dogan Media up on the site, just to explore how many people actually click ads. So far, the clicks on Dead Dogan are quite positive. I am currently looking into an online version for our hard copy classifieds. And we have been fielding requests for online ads. Look for website ad

pricing in the New Year.

We are most proud of the interactive nature of our website — people are sending classifieds and letters to the editor through the site. All great stuff.

The fact that we now have a great platform for videos — and our sports, entertainment and event photos — is perhaps most gratifying.

If you have any suggestions for increasing the range of our web services, you know where to get us: the website is at haliburtonhighlander.ca and you can email me at gav@haliburtonhighlander.ca. Our twitter account is up at Twitter.com/HighlanderToday, and we have a Facebook page as well.



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Junior highlanders



Jillian Mayhew guards her post. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Angular thinking by Jillian Mayhew

By Terrance Gavan

Jillian Mayhew moved into a position that no one else wanted last year.

She's the Red Hawk girls' goaltender sporting a three and "oh-my!" record this season.

Considering the ramifications on psyche and the toll on the spirit, who would ever dream of tending a greasy crease on a patch of indoor ice?

Now, admittedly, it's an iconoclast's dream position, a pensive spot, brutally shorn of any access to the more glamorous hallmarks of the game. Hockey is a game more renowned for headlong herky-jerks on the open wing, dipsy doodles, nifty jukes and jittery jives, than the blocker stop and knees-down scramble. Nothing pretty about a goaltender on bended knees – as if in obeisance to the big guy upstairs, no not Don Cherry – head down, searching frantically for a loose puck.

So to answer the question why no one wants to be a goaltender: you're the only one facing the other way.

Well, that's baseball catchers, but never mind. You get the idea. Goalies, like baseball catchers, occupy a mercurial spot. They are bedecked in ersatz armor that lends a menacing tone to the proceedings. They look like one of those UN bomb defusers, slumping down a dirt road on an Afghan highway. Goalies are forced to wear humongous pads and an unflattering mask. Until Prada gets into the game, it is the wardrobe from hell.

Small wonder that goalies and catchers talk to themselves a lot.

Last season the Hawks women, taking their inaugural foray into the tempestuous cauldron known as the Kawartha Girls Hockey League, had skaters, a few years of competitive club hockey under their collective belts, a strong and lively commitment to the whole idea, but they were lacking an

experienced goaltender.

Mayhew had played the position at the club level. She is a super talented and eclectic athlete. She is a highly proficient skater, a dancer, a multi-sport competitor. She is one of the best figure skaters in the region. And she is smart as the proverbial whip.

But she had not grown up playing the sport. A big disadvantage, especially in the slot.

If you've never had the pleasure of talking one-on-one with a professional goaltender, let me enlighten. It's a position filled almost exclusively with unusual mathematical paradigms that take years and years to fully comprehend. A goalie must understand, instinctively, the dangle of every angle and the algebraic coefficient of a myriad of on-ice situations.

Specifically if a player is ready to drift a shot toward the goal from the top of the right hand face-off circle, there is a precise location on the ice, between the shooter and the goal, where it is almost impossible for a shooter to gain access to an opening. That part of the game is not instinctive. It's geometry. And it's written down in The Gump Worsley Bible of Angular Truths.

The problem is getting to that specific point in the heat of a game, with three players chugging around your crease makes the whole exercise pretty darn challenging. That's why goalies must also be the funniest people on the bus. Because if you wear this position on your sleeve? It's gonna' break your heart every time.

A goalie talks about angles like a Nobel laureate. Goalies talk about caroms, probability and the downgraded triangle with the promptness and acuity of my old high school math prof, the Rev Donald Francis Gavan.

I don't know how Jackie Mayhew does in math at Hal High, but I am assuming, on the basis of her stellar play this season,

that she is a math whiz. (I just learned she carries 90 plus. And, well, we'll call it a lucky guess.)

After a game against Lindsay Collegiate, Mayhew was voted player of the game by her peers and her coaches for a simply wonderful display of goaltending. Except for a 2 minute, 57 second manic hiccup at the end of the second period where seven goals spilled into both nets, Mayhew and indeed the whole Red Hawk defense played lockdown defense.

Mayhew prompted the crushing win with her shut-up, shutdown efforts early in the game, and followed it up with an outstanding third period kitty-bar-the-door performance.

The three-minute-three-goal LCVI outbreak was a complete non-sequitur. Two goals came on odd man rushes and the other came as a result of a coughed up biscuit which left an LCVI forward alone with Mayhew on the doorstep. Trust me, break down or no break down, Jillian Mayhew took every one of those three goals very personally.

That Thursday afternoon, Mayhew was tested often, and she proved equal to the task.

After the game last Thursday, Coach Dan Marsden gave Mayhew props for her play.

"She kept us in the game," smiled Marsden. "No doubt she was our player of the game. She was really tested for the first time this year. And she just played great."

Amen to that Deacon Marsden. She was our pick as well.

Jillian Mayhew's season record is three wins and no losses. Ask Jillian what she'd prefer, a shutout or a three and zero record, and I think we all can guess what her answer would be.

Like all goalies. Mayhew is a consummate teammate. Probably because it is the one lonely position where trust in the team is both paramount. And good for the ego.

Algonquin Highlands

Council agrees to three per cent pay raise

By Jerry Grozelle

Algonquin Highlands council approved a three percent cost-of-living pay raise to staff and councilors at its December 15 meeting.

The decision to increase municipal employees' wages was reached without much in the way of argument.

Councilor Gord Henderson noted that the decision should not be based on overall performance of municipal employees but on the fact that the cost of living has risen. His only concern was that Algonquin Highlands might not be consistent with other municipalities within Haliburton County, if those municipalities were to decide on less than three percent.

Reeve Carol Moffatt noted that times are tight for everybody and that some people have had to do without an increase. She asked members of council what they felt was a reasonable cost-of-living percentage rise. She said municipal jobs may be considered by the general public as plumb jobs in the community, but she pointed out that municipal employees must have all kinds of qualifications and certifications that are not usually required in other professions. She also noted that treating municipal employees fairly may be a reason why they don't feel the need for a collective union agreement.

The decision to go with the three percent increase, which translates to about an extra \$42,000 for the township's budget, was a relatively easy one for council.

The discussion regarding the same cost-of-living increase for members of council was more difficult, even though it was pointed out that councilors are subject to the same inflated costs of consumer goods as everyone else.

Both proposals were brought to council by CAO Angie Bird.

Councilors wrestled with the thought that ratepayers may see it as giving themselves a raise.

Deputy Reeve Liz Danielsen asked if any consideration has been given to pay equity with other municipal politicians within the county and if a comparison had ever been done. "This really has nothing to do with performance but more with equity," she said. "Does pay equity look at the council as well? There's no reason why we couldn't look at a half a dozen municipalities and see where we're at, so we know where we compare and if we're in the same ballpark."

Henderson said zero percent or three percent wouldn't affect him either way. Councilor Lisa Barry said she wouldn't be opposed to zero percent.

Bird was asked what a three percent cost-of-living increase for members of council would add to the budget. She said the total would be \$2,800. When it came to the vote, that figure swayed the majority in favour, with only Barry dissenting.

Kyle sworn in as Algonquin Highlands councilor

By Jerry Grozelle

Marlene Kyle joined the ranks of Algonquin Highlands council after sitting in the audience for four months. Kyle was sworn in as the township's newest councilor at the December 15 council meeting after winning the by-election in November.

"We look forward to your contributions as we move ahead," said Reeve Carol Moffatt.

"I would like to thank you for welcoming me," Kyle said. "Everyone here on council has been instrumental in educating me over the past several months to get me to this point." She also thanked her husband Doug for his support and all those who helped in her successful bid to become a member of Algonquin Highlands council.

Kyle replaces former Councilor Gary Schultz, who sold his business and moved out of the country.



Marlene Kyle is sworn in.

Crime way down in 2011

By Jerry Grozelle

Algonquin Highlands has experienced a significant decrease in crime and traffic incidents from 2010.

That's the message Sergeant Mike Reynolds, acting Detachment Commander of the Haliburton Highlands OPP, brought to the December 15 council meeting.

From January to November 2010, a total of 707 incidents were reported in Algonquin Highlands. Over the same period this year there were 561, a reduction of 21 percent. "We hope that trend continues," Reynolds said.

The most significant reduction in criminal activity reports were drug offenses (down 71 percent), assaults (down 67 percent) and break and enters (down 44 percent).

The overall number of incidents for the Haliburton Highlands OPP coverage area was down by five per cent.

"The numbers don't look too bad," Reynolds said. "Hopefully, with the strategies we are employing through Staff Sergeant [Malcolm] Quigley, we will continue to see a drop. Break-and-enters continue to be an issue throughout the Highlands." He said five or six individuals have been arrested recently, with community involvement through calls to the OPP. Those arrests solved a number of break-and-enters in the Fort Irwin area.

The Enhanced Police Visibility Program has been very successful. The program supplements front-line policing by increasing visible police presence, mostly through foot patrols in the county's villages. "The program has been well received both in the community and by the officers," Reynolds said. "I think it's money well spent."

In the motor vehicle collisions category, collisions causing property damage were down by 58 per cent; non-reportable collisions were down by 10 per cent; and personal injury collisions were even, at nine each year. There were two fatalities this year compared to none in 2010. Reynolds said

radar enforcement is partly responsible for the reduction in personal injury collisions.

Overtime

Detachment overtime saw an overall reduction in 2011 in spite of the recent homicide investigation, which is ongoing. The higher 2010 overtime figures were attributed to the G8 and G20 summits. Reynolds said the overtime figures will probably average out over a five-year period.

Staffing

The Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment is currently in the process of replacing Constable Val Jarvis, who recently retired. Reynolds noted that two more personnel – Sergeant Mike Landry and Constable Dave Robertson – are scheduled to retire in June of 2012. "Those retirements come at a time that's critical to us to make sure that we have the proper resources," Reynolds said. Another three officers are on accommodated duties – one short term and two long term.

Dorset Tower issues

The Dorset Tower is an area of concern for the OPP, especially during the fall when traffic sees a dramatic increase as travelers come to the area to view the fall colours. The recommendation is that a meeting between the OPP, MTO and Algonquin Highlands be scheduled for early in 2012 to discuss an action plan to effectively manage road safety in the area. Reynolds said both short term and long term solutions to improve pedestrian traffic are needed.

Reynolds added that the long-term solution might involve road realignment or special turn lanes. "It's not an issue that's going to go away," Reynolds said. "I realize it's a tourism issue and we need to work through that. It's a good thing for your community, but from a policing standpoint we need to make effective changes and work together with the community and the MTO to make sure that it's safe."

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Sports feature

Hodgson remembers a favourite teacher

Forgrave gets five minutes and a hockey game for “nurturing dreams”

By Terrance Gavan

That iconic ‘five minutes of fame’ touched Haliburton’s Laraine Forgrave last weekend.

Forgrave, a retired school teacher, usually eschews the neon glare, but for one of her favourite students she says she was more than willing to make an exception.

Forgrave and her husband, Peter, enjoyed a marvelous night of hockey, and some Hockey Night in Canada (HNIC) limelight, last Saturday night as special guests of Cody Hodgson, an emerging force on an already star-smacked Vancouver Canucks roster.

The Hodgson and Forgrave connection goes way back to 1996-97, when Cody was a grade one student at the old Victoria Street Elementary School.

Apparently ‘Mrs Forgrave’ – she says she had no idea at the time – made quite an impression on her young student, who would have been a member of the Haliburton Tyke team at the time. His dad, Chris Hodgson, was the MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock and a cabinet minister in the Mike Harris government.

Cody was the subject of an HNIC special feature during the televised game at the Air Canada Centre on Saturday night. During he segment, fans learned that he had invited a passel of family along with his favourite teacher to the game.

Hodgson told Bob Mitchell of the Toronto Star all about his quest to cadge a bundle of tickets for the game.

“I’ve been looking forward to this game ... but I couldn’t possibly get enough tickets for all the people who helped me and my family and friends,” said Hodgson last Friday.

Hodgson, in his first full season with the Canucks, has six goals and nine assists in 31 games.

“I watched a lot of hockey games on Saturday night from this building,” Hodgson told Mitchell.

“This is a big game for a lot of players. It’s a hometown for a lot of us and everybody loves playing in Toronto. This is a great feeling. I had the opportunity to play against Sweden in Toronto in a pre-season game for the world juniors.”

Laraine and Peter, who arrived at the game very early, had absolutely no idea that they, and indeed most of the Hodgson guests, were being singled out on national television.

“No, the first we heard about that was on Sunday,” laughs Laraine. Since then she has received calls from all over, including New Zealand, telling her that they had read her name in an Internet article.

“I had no idea that I was going to get all this attention,” says Forgrave. For his part, Hodgson simply insists that



Laraine Forgrave wears her Vancouver Canucks hat. Photo by Heather Kennedy

he remembers Forgrave, especially because she was so supportive of his dream to one day play in the NHL.

Forgrave, ever the nurturer, told Hodgson that she certainly believed that he could play in the NHL. She remembers telling him that if he ever did manage to reach his dream, he’d have to promise to get her tickets to a game.

“I guess he remembered,” Forgrave says. She explains that she received the news a couple of weeks ago.

The phone rang on a Saturday night. “The caller asked to speak to a Mrs. Forgrave and I thought it was a telemarketer,” laughs Forgrave.

“Turns out that it was Cody, and he asked me if I would like tickets to the Leafs and Canucks game on Dec 17. I was absolutely shocked and my family was too. I said, ‘that was Cody Hodgson and he’s invited us to go to a game.’”

She says that his kindness and generosity and capacity for sharing was evident even back in grade one. “I mostly remember him as a really nice little guy with a friendly smile and just a really nice kid,” says Forgrave.

“He was already showing some of the leadership traits that have led him to where he is today. I remember that he was very enthusiastic. Even back then he had to miss some school for hockey, and, having been through that with our

own son, I was very supportive.”

So she’s followed Cody right through his career. She remembers his milestones and she’s agonized over his travails, with his ailing back and then some very difficult years early in his career.

“He was a leader with Brampton, and on the Junior hockey team and I remember being so excited when he was drafted by Vancouver,” says Forgrave. “I sent him a letter after he was drafted by Vancouver in 2008.”

After the game, the Forgraves, along with that contingent of friends and family, all got to see Cody emerge from the dressing room. “He looked really handsome in his suit, and he still had that warm and friendly smile,” says Forgrave.

“He said hello and we told him that it was a real thrill to be there. I asked him how he was doing and he said he was really enjoying it.

“He had lots of people there and made sure to say something to every one of them. It’s not all about Cody, and you could tell it was a really nice time for him.”

I promised that I wouldn’t tell anyone the guilty secret that Laraine Forgrave probably has enshrined in a special nook.

But we think that even the most lethally devoted of the Maple Buds’ cognoscente here in Haliburton would forgive her for a small indulgence.

“I went to buy myself a Vancouver Canuck hat at the concession,” laughs Forgrave.

“We’re die-hard Leafs’ fans. But not on that night.”

Laraine Forgrave

Cody Hodgson’s grade one teacher.

“We’re die-hard Leafs’ fans, but not on that night.”

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Sports news

Girls win bronze at Lake Placid

By Terrance Gavan

The Miracle on Ice happened way back in 1980. At the Winter Olympics on a crowded patch of ice in Lake Placid, New York, a young US men's hockey team beat the mighty Russians to win gold.

Okay, so it doesn't come close to replicating the Shroud of Turin, but the iconic victory made a hero of coach Herb Brooks, and it also enshrined forever that singular sheet of ice at the former Olympic ice hockey venue.

The pad is still there. We know that because the Red Hawks women's hockey squad won a bronze medal at Lake Placid last Sunday afternoon. They managed to play on all the ice pads at Lake Placid during the three-day, five-game tourney. And they ended up bringing home a bronze medal.

That's one of those memories for the ages, and something to kick around with the grandkids.

None of those young high school girls was around for the 1980 Olympics. But we'd bet our last dollar that they've all heard about the game. Or if they didn't before their sojourn to Lake Placid, they know all about it now.

Hawks' coach Dan Marsden was ecstatic as we chatted under the stands of the Dysart Arena last Monday night, between periods of the Hawks' 5-2 victory over St. Peter's. (See story in these sports pages.)

The Hawks beat Guelph's Centennial High, 2-0, in the playoff for third place at the prestigious Lake Placid tournament.

"It was a great game and Jillian (Mayhew) got the shutout," said Marsden. "The whole team played well. We tied them (Centennial), 1-1, in the round robin and it was close again in the bronze medal match-up."

"We scored late in the second to make it 1-0, and Jessica Duchene scored that goal. Then with 1:54 left in the game, we called a time out to give the girls a breather. Just after that we iced the puck and Centennial called time and pulled their goalie."

That's when the coaches Marsden and Vince Duchene mapped out a crucial strategy.

"We got the girls in," explained Marsden. "And we said: 'Off the boards, clear, off the boards, clear, off the boards.'"

Nervous time for the whole squad, smiled Marsden.

"We won a face off, and we fired it off the boards," Marsden said. "And then Megan (Allore) challenged the defenseman, came away with the puck, and skated the length of the ice, and scored the insurance goal."

He said that the whole bench and arena erupted with chants of: "Shoot! Shoot!"

Marsden and Duchene were yelling too. "Skate, skate, don't



Forward Sam Tallman drives into the slot during Kawartha League game. File photo by Terrance Gavan.

shoot, just make sure."

And the speedy Allore just did her own thing. "She used her speed to clear space and raced to the other end before depositing the insurance marker."

Marsden said that the final two minutes were a gut-check for the girls and they passed the test with Herculean brevity.

"We toughed it out and we played really strong for that last minute," smiled Marsden. "We played tough defensively the whole game, and while they (Centennial) hit a few posts, they didn't get any breaks. But we didn't get any breaks against St. Pete's (in a 3-0 round robin loss to their Kawartha rivals), so it evens out."

"The girls played outstanding, everybody played sound hockey, and our girls that haven't played as much hockey as some of the more experienced girls played strong, sound hockey, and stepped up their play over the course of the weekend."

The girls finished the qualifiers with one win, one loss and two ties.

In their opening game versus Burlington on Friday they were up 3-1 but ended up in a 3-3 draw. They went on to beat Lakefield 2-0 on Friday night with Connor Marsden picking up the shutout.

"On Saturday morning at 11:30 we played St. Pete's (Peterborough), and we knew that was going to be a tough game, so the plan was to shut them down," said Marsden. "We told the girls that we didn't want to get into a shootout with them. We were playing on the large ice, the 1980 Herb

Brooks' Pad. We told them to take away the middle and we managed to do pretty well. We held them to three one-goal periods, but ended up losing 3-0.

"Meagan (Allore) hit a crossbar and Erin Little hit a post, so we've given them (St. Pete's) something to think about, and that's important, because we play them in our last regular season game of the year, on Jan 12. One of those posts goes in, and maybe it's a different game."

Later on Saturday they tied Centennial, 1-1, and that set up a complicated goals-for-and-against situation to determine the gold and bronze medal match-ups.

"If we had beaten Centennial, we would have had five points, and Holy Cross had four," said Marsden. "It turned out Holy Cross got the Gold medal match because they had had a plus-four and we had a minus one in goals-for-and-against."

Unfortunate, but for a team that only entered into competitive high school hockey last year, it's also an eventful milestone. Marsden said that the trip south was an early Christmas present for the team.

"We got to play on all of the rinks so we gained a lot of experience playing on different sized ice," said Marsden, who said that the sightseeing was an added bonus.

"We visited the ski jump towers, and some of the girls went bobsledding," said Marsden. "And we tried to get on the Olympic Oval for some speed skating, but it was too warm."

"All in all a good bonding experience and we're getting ready to have a final game this week against Adam Scott (road game) and then a well-deserved winter break."



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Sports opinion

PardontheEruption

If Hickey deserves to be fired – I deserve a public beheading



By Terrance Gavan

Pat Hickey is a columnist for the Montreal Gazette. Worse yet, he's a sports columnist.

Sports columnist is an oxymoron, and like 'military intelligence', 'jumbo shrimp' and 'Harper brainstorm' the contradictory mélange should be approached warily, and perused with a jaundiced eye.

Contrarian commentarians (sic) dine extravagantly on the crumbs left by crumbs. Columnists are paid to be harsh, and earn their living by way of haughty imperiousness and self-righteous condescension.

When Pat Hickey's column on former NHLer Theoren Fleury appeared on line at montrealgazette.com last week, it ignited a firestorm of indignant responses. Hickey had stomped on some open wounds and he was vilified on line and on air.

For the record, here's part of what Hickey said: "Shortly after Graham James pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting former National Hockey League player Theoren Fleury...Fleury held a news conference and accused Canada's politicians of doing nothing to protect our children."

Hickey quoted Fleury: "It's just unbelievable for me when I think about what happened and that he was granted a pardon." Fleury was referring to a pardon of his childhood molester Graham James, a convicted sex predator and hockey coach. James was convicted and served time in 1997 for the sexual assault of another player and Fleury's teammate, Sheldon Kennedy.

Kennedy came forward when no one else would, and it exacted a toll on his own NHL career. Kennedy is now involved with Respect Group Inc., which operates online educational training for sports leaders, teachers, parents and businesses on how to recognize and then act on cases of abuse.

Hickey said, "I agree James should be doing hard time. But I find it hypocritical that Fleury can blast the justice system for giving James two months of freedom when he provided his former coach with years."

Hickey said that if Fleury had come forward with Sheldon Kennedy, pedophile James would have served

more time in jail and would never have been pardoned.

Hickey was angry and wrote about his anger with passion, backed up by some discernible contradictions in Fleury's newfound zeal and his condemnation of the system. Fleury compounded the problem through a hidebound failure to recognize his own part in this Jamesian saga.

"Nobody should question Fleury's decision to remain silent," wrote Hickey. "What should be questioned is Fleury's continuing role in James's life. At the time of Kennedy's revelations, James was the coach of the Calgary Hitmen. He was one of the co-owners of the junior team

be fired," wrote Hickey. "On Tuesday, Michael Landsberg asked me if I was willing to appear with Fleury on TSN's Off The Record. I agreed. Fleury declined."

Were Hickey's points valid? Of course. Should Pat Hickey be fired for writing astutely and passionately about this subject? Of course not. Quod erat demonstrandum.

Take a look at the news pages. In the past short while, Penn State football has been dealing with very serious and disturbing sex abuse allegations, Syracuse University has an assistant coach who is on the dock for similar transgressions, Scouts Canada is being investigated for covering up cases of sexual abuse, and the RCMP

is enduring a plethora of sexual abuse allegations that will "soon shake the windows and rattle the walls" of a once proud police force.

Hickey has every right to question Fleury's tardiness.

The proselytizing for this problem should be done by the real heroes.

The young men and the brave women who gallantly offered themselves to disdain and ridicule and shunned their fears in order to bring these things to the light of day. For future victims.

Sheldon Kennedy and the recent epiphany of Catherine Galliford, the RCMP corporal who is proceeding with claims against the Mounties for sexual harassment and bullying, are the cogs pushing this saga.

There are heroes and disciples in every movement. We love the disciples.

But in the case of child abuse and bullying, where the consequences are so dire, we have to ask.

What took ya' Theo?



Former NHL star Theoren Fleury. File Photo.

in the Western Hockey League. One of the other owners was Theoren Fleury. Here was someone who had suffered abuse at the hands of Graham James. Here was someone who knew that James had abused other players. Here was someone who was exposing other children to the same sexual predator."

That prompted the controversy and many, many calls for Hickey's head on a pike. Readers from across the country said that Hickey should be fired. So too did Fleury. Hickey fought back with an explanatory piece in the Gazette.

"On his website Monday night, Fleury called for me to

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Sports news

Hawks host extravagant day of wrestling

By Terrance Gavan

Nothing quite like the emphatic drumbeat of bodies hitting mats to get the blood running like the Gull River during spring runoff.

Last Friday, the staccato tattoo and thud of wrestlers bumping together, like those rubber cars at an amusement park, filled the Haliburton High School gymnasium.

Over 200 wrestlers from local Kawartha high schools locked and loaded their weapons of mass take down and throw, and the scene, while not quite as medieval as ancient Greece, gave us an insight into the sparkle and flow of this truly unruly sport.

What looks like hell and fury is actually a very controlled and uncontrived dance. Like a chess match, where both players are on Red Bull. And the intensity is truly wondrous to behold.

From afar, mind you. From afar.

This is a young men's and young women's endeavour. Best left for fit athletes, who possess bodies equipped to bend into almost unfathomable angles. We carried with us that day a bag of pretzels hidden in our camera duffle. As we chomped, we smiled at the irony. These young wrestlers bent just like our reporter's lunch which, as we continued to shoot the meet, left those of us in the Geritol and orthotics demographic just a tad envious.

But chiopractically enhanced and lithe bodies aside, the contorted action on the four busy mats in the Hawks Nest was not the only thing that left us gobsmacked.

More significant was the hard-wired performance of the host team, who for a lot of the meet competed without the mat-side assist of their coaches Paul Klose and Dan Fockler - the twin mentors of what has become over the last decade an incredibly strong Red Hawk wrestling program.

"We kind of told our wrestlers at the beginning of the day, 'you're on your own,' because Dan and I have so much to do as the event organizers," said Klose, while rushing to-and-fro like the proverbial headless clucker on Friday afternoon.

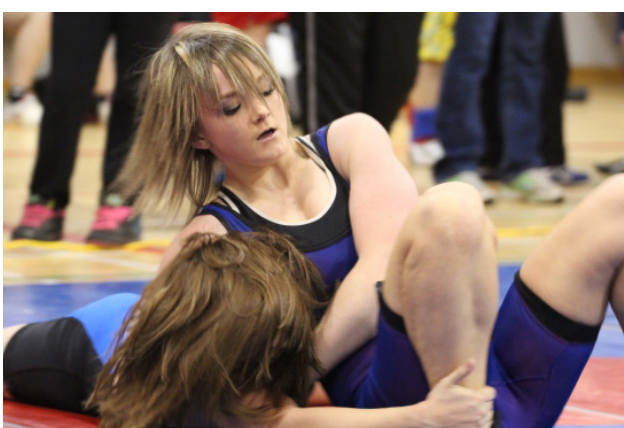
The Hawks' wrestlers managed just fine without the mollycoddling, shouted good wishes and instruction from their coaches.

In women's action, Kayla Gardiner, Liz Toth and Maia O'Sullivan grabbed gold. Silvers went to Lily Coneybeare, Caitlyn Griffin, Nichole Honderich and Bailey Walker. Bronze medals went to Elaine Searle and Jenn Woolacott.

On the men's mats, Cody Cox won gold, BJ Archer and



Red Hawks' Foster works to pin an opponent.



Nicole Honderich and Kayla Gardiner.

Zane Zondervan took silvers and Matt Sexsmith and Mark Christie won bronze medals.

"We had a great meet," said Klose on Friday evening. "Boy, we're (he and Fockler) just happy it's over."

Storm Atom AE drops one to Huntsville

Submitted by Larry Bukta

The Highland Storm Atom AE team was in contention to win in the first two periods at the Haliburton arena on Saturday. Jake O'Neill put in two goals to give the Storm team a 2-1 lead but Huntsville tied it in the second period.

Storm had a chance to go ahead again at the start of the third period when Huntsville took a penalty but the Storm team could not capitalize on the power play. Huntsville then got the upper hand in the third period with some wide-open play and won 6-2. Storm goalie Jaxson Campbell was outstanding, stopping a barrage of shots.

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Sports news

Let's get ready to rumble

Hawks down St. Peter's Saints in a pithy 'Battle of Kawartha'

By Terrance Gavan

Never disappointing, these clashes between titans. Not in ancient Greece. And not in the Haliburton Highlands.

On Monday night, the passel of Haliburton hockey faithful that paid money to stand (few sit for classics) and watch perennial hockey juggernauts, St. Peter's Saints and Haliburton High Hawks, go toe-to-toe, were drenched and entrenched in a full-tilt, full-monte, head-on collision between the premier teams in the Kawartha Hockey league.

Like Frazier and Ali in their prime, these two teams traded body blows for 45 solid minutes.

The teams danced to a scoreless first period before the quick-change and speedy transition of the prepossessing Hawks team finally took its toll on the Saints. The Peterborough team, bigger, slower and older, used their size and experience well, but there's an old hockey adage: whither speed, wither opponents. Veni, vidi vici, the Hawks came, saw and finally found twine, after falling behind 1-0 early in the second period.

The Hawks staged a 5-2 comeback win, relying on absolutely picture perfect head-man leads, marvelous neutral zone play, quick clearing, seamless back-checking and the peerless goaltending of Andy Elia, who said after the game that he retained nothing from his classes that day - his mind was on St. Peter's and not the ramifications of the industrial revolution.

But hey, cut the fifth year man some slack, good teachers, because the doting reverie and concentration resulted in a shut-up, shut-down and stellar display of goaltending.

Elia and Zach Harrison share the goaltending duties. The pressure to play well is compounded by this friendly rivalry. Elia picked a great day to have his best performance of the year.

And yes, he's acutely aware of that.

"That first goal, it just took a little hop as it reached my stick and trickled through my legs," said Elia after the game. "But I just picked it up from there and kept going."

He just smiles when asked about the third Hawks' goal which gave them some breathing room.

"Well, it was really good to see that one get past him," said Elia. The 'him' he's referring to is his opposite number in the St. Pete's crease, a certain Mr. Smith, whose puff-adder-quick glove hand robbed the Hawks on seven point blank scoring opportunities.

"He was really strong, and we were glad... I was glad



Jordan Howe fights for the puck against Saint Peter's Saints. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

that we finally got that third goal," Elia said. "That was an important goal for the whole team, and I think it really picked us up."

The first Hawks' goal was important and it courtesy of Ryan Hunter, who has been on a scoring binge of late. Assists on that pop went to Nate Feir and Stewart Chaulk. Feir and Chaulk were back-checking demons for all three periods and they played an important role in keeping the Saints top lines on their heels.

Brett Yake scored two goals including the eventual game winner, while Feir and Carson Roberts helped nail down the coffin with single tallies.

Assists went to Jordan Howe, Greg Clements, Aaron Hillier, and the twin Tanners, Ballantyne and Hamilton.

Coach Ron Yake and assistant coach Bruce Griffiths came into the game with a pretty succinct strategy.

"We knew coming in that they'd try to slow us down," smiled Yake. "But we did a good job of moving the puck up the boards and then getting it into the center of the ice."

Yake added that Hunter's first goal, after going down 1-0, made a big difference in the flow of the game.

"The first goal in a game like that is very important, especially when we got into a bit of a chess match there in the first period," said Yake. "That first goal came and I think it changed the flow of the game."

Yake gave big props to both goalies.

"Their goaltender was very, very strong and that glove hand, he robbed us a number of times when I thought we had sure goals," said Yake. "And Andrew played well and had some good stops also. That's good hockey. Great game."

"What can we say... that's just good Haliburton hockey, with a great crowd."

Last Thursday, the Hawks beat Fenelon Falls 5-1 on the road.

"That Fenelon Falls game was similar tonight, very close at the start until we broke it open with a few goals," said Yake.

Follow the Hawks at haliburtonhighlander.ca. Bonus pictures and video interviews are also available on our website.

Junior Hawks working on new offense

By Terrance Gavan

The insertion of a new offence seems to have inspired the Hal High JV hoop Hawks.

Hawks traveled to Lindsay Vocational for a tourney last Friday and played two strong games.

"We played St. Thomas in the first game and lost 34-31," said co-coach Paul Longo. "We probably should have won, but a couple of lucky three pointers hurt us."

Longo mentioned that his Hawks had a deplorable day from the charity stripe.

"We went to the (free-throw) line 15 times and only hit three foul shots... and that's the game right there," said

Longo.

The Hawks lost, 43-35, to Peterborough Collegiate in their second game. "It was a real character building game," explained Longo. "We were down, 13-1, in the first three minutes, but we fought back with an effective two-three zone defense to pull within one, 19-18, at the half."

"We had a little breakdown in the third quarter, and were down 34-23 early in the fourth, but fought back again with a little half-court press to make it close in the end. Another couple of minutes and I think we'd take that game."

After a couple of disappointing early season

hammerings, Longo says that his young squad finally seems to be making "great strides."

The Hawks play two league games this week.

"The boys came home feeling really good about their chances this coming week against Thomas A. Stewart and IE Weldon," said Longo.

In earlier league games this year Crestwood beat the junior Hawks 51-14. They lost by a convincing margin last Wednesday to Fenelon Falls.

Longo hopes that this timely tournament serves to swerve the Hawks' fortunes in the second half of the season.

Sports news

Fenelon Falls snag twin win

Hawks Varsity and JV teams drop both sides of doubleheader

By Terrance Gavan

Damon Flatman tried, but his game-high 13 points was not enough to pull the young and undermanned senior Hawks out of a fourth quarter hole against Fenelon Falls.

The Varsity Hawks dropped a close 43-39 encounter to the visiting Falcons at the packed Nest last Wednesday.

The dagger came via an unassuming shooting guard who apparently saved his sweet silky shooting touch for the final quarter.

Hawks gave a kid named Kurtis – coaches please, full names on the score sheet – open looks in the frenzied fourth period, and that kid named Kurtis (Moore), who hadn't popped for a single point in the opening three quarters, suddenly became the reincarnation of the famous Cleveland Cavaliers shooting guard, Bingo Smith.

Back in the 70s Smith's long range arcs – no three point lines back then – were accompanied by fans' bellowed chorus of "Bingo!"

Well, Kurtis 'Bingo' Moore absolutely deflated the Hawks, who watched him drill three straight treys. He added a charity stripe single to finish with 10 searing points.

Now, coach Dave Waito was not absolutely enthralled with the loss, but his mood was lighter than after a season opening loss to Crestwood Mustangs. That loss came by way of a total lack of enthusiasm on both the offensive and defensive backboards.

Waito said after that embarrassing loss that the tepid play in the paint showed an utter lack of pride. "If you get beat to the boards," said Waito after the Crestwood game, "that's something you have to take seriously."

Now, did his team get beat to the boards against Fenelon? Yes, but the intensity and the heart were extant and they left

their hearts on the hardwood. And when they got beat, it was due to a hefty discrepancy in size, and not for lack of hard work and pride.

"We trained hard last week," said Waito, a glint in his eye. "We worked on rebounding. We worked on getting to loose balls and we wanted to get charges, and I saw all three of those things happen tonight."

The Hawks actually led, 18-12, at the half. Hawks carried a lead heading into the final quarter and when the Falcons laid out a sneaky trap zone press, things got dicey. Some errors and giveaways proved costly.

Austin Lloyd scored to pull the Hawks within three, 40-37, late in the game, and the Hawks actually had a chance to tie the game, right up until the closing seconds.

"Damon played really well for us, and he's got a lot of responsibility out there," said Waito. Flatman ran the offense because of an injury to starting point guard Elijah Anger.

Hawks dressed only eight players and are anxiously awaiting the return of both Anger and, possibly, guard Louis Ferracuti after the Christmas break.

The percolating play of newcomer Zach Cox was uplifting. Cox is forced to venture into the paint to bang bodies with some senior beefcakes on older opposing teams.

Cox played his best and most aggressive game of the season last Wednesday and that certainly bodes well for the Hawks as they enter the second part of the schedule.

"Zach seemed more comfortable out there, so we'll be looking for him to finish more chances," said Waito.

Cox scored an unheard of 12 points and didn't look out of place in the crowded paint. Hawks went up against LCVI at the Hawks' Nest on Wednesday. Results will be on line and in the Jan 5 issue.



Damon Flatman was double-teamed most of the afternoon, but managed to lead all scorers with 13 points. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Volleyball Hawks digging grooves in hardwood

By Terrance Gavan

Christmas stuffing came early this year for some soaring Hawks.

Both junior and senior varsity girls hosted a Kawartha tourney on Wednesday.

Three courts and a passel of teams filled the Red Hawks' Nest with a cumulative hum. Senior varsity girls, coached by Steve Smith and Caley Sisson, put on a stellar display of volleyball.

The senior girls won the tourney. They lost a match to LCVI Spartans, but Smith said that the match against Lindsay qualified as an exhibition encounter.

The senior varsity mixed a devastating service game with

some powerful set and pound retorts in taking the tournament.

Steve Smith says that the girls are confident and cool under pressure. All of the games were close and many came down to must point situations.

Fenelon Falls Falcons and the St. Thomas Aquinas Titans were part of the four-team tourney.

Haliburton handed the Titans a 25-10, 19-25 and 15-10 loss in the first match and then the senior varsity beat the Falcons, 25-22, 25-23 and 17-25.

They played the powerful Spartans straight up in the exhibition portion before finally losing 25-18, 15-25 and 10-15.

"I think we have 12 tournaments this year with junior and senior mixed," said Smith. "We travel together and have

tournaments together so it's a new format this season. We ended up winning the tourney because the games against LCVI were counted as exhibitions."

Smith says that the senior Hawks have several veteran players, but is quick to add that they are benefiting from a strong influx of junior players from Coach Brett Caputo's junior team.

Caputo's junior varsity girls endured a less successful outing winning only one set on the day. The juniors are in a rebuilding year, but Smith says that the hallmark of Caputo's coaching style lies in strict adherence to fundamentals.

"We've got a lot of graduates from Brett's program playing really good volleyball this year," says Smith.

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DID SANTA FORGET? We all know he is getting a little older and, well, can sometimes forget things. Well, there is still time to purchase your Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass at pre-Christmas prices. Passes are available by calling the Highlands Summer Festival box office for details (705) 457-9933. Five production pass - \$110. The Highlands Opera Studio passes just \$67.50 for three performances. Call now, (before you forget), because the sale ends January 15.

NOTICE OF MEETING Wilberforce Agricultural Society, Annual Meeting & Supper, Sat Jan 14, 2012, Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce, Supper 6 pm, Annual Meeting 7:30 pm, Everyone welcome. For more information call (705) 448-2683 or email info@wilberforcefair.com

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ALL THE BEST FOR A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON, to the staff and volunteers of SIRCH and the Volunteer Dental Outreach Clinic in Haliburton. Thanks for all you do for the residents of Haliburton County.

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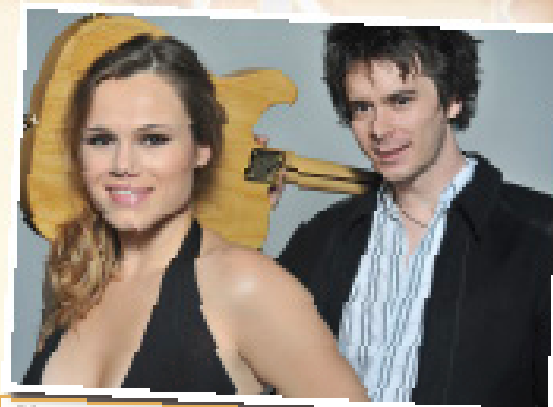
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